

HOUSE No. 2009

Filed by Speaker DiMasi of Boston. January 8, 2007.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

1 *Ordered*, That 11 members of the House, 8 to be appointed by
2 the speaker and 3 by the minority leader, be authorized to make an
3 investigation and study of the manner in which the commonwealth
4 protects children from abuse and neglect. In the course of its
5 investigation, the committee shall study the following and other
6 related matters:— the balance between protecting children and
7 family preservation, the reporting of or failure to report child
8 abuse and neglect by mandated reporters and others, the investiga-
9 tion of such reports by the department of social services, the qual-
10 ifications and management of social workers and other staff at the
11 department, the management of records by the department, the
12 capacity of the department to critique itself and respond to criti-
13 cism, the role of law enforcement, including local police and the
14 district attorney, the role of private providers, including therapists
15 and medical personnel, the capacity to handle high-risk children,
16 and the commonwealth's role as a guardian in end-of-life deci-
17 sions.

18 The committee shall report to the general court from time to
19 time the results of its investigation and study and its recommenda-
20 tions, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry
21 its recommendation into effect by filing the same with the clerk of
22 the House of Representatives on or before March 28, 2007.